

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

MINUTES

Sept.1, 2009

6:00PM

Normal Heights Community Center

Call to Order by Jim Baross at 6:05

Members present: Susan Redelings, Kevin Johnston, Nancy Wolfing, Earlene Thom, Holly Ritter, Jim Baross, Dino Serafini, Morris Dye, Art Harrison and Rosanna Harrison

Members absent: Bank Dawson Richard Rios, Larry Hofreiter

Community Members/Guests: Suzanne Ledeboer, Bob Keiser, Jim Schneider, Mark Giandona, Gary Weber, Dion Akers

Welcome and introductions

Minutes of August meeting

Amendment: Risa Baron (not Lisa) could be contacted for general information regarding the proposed 40th Street community garden, but not necessarily to answer questions about the process for assigning plots therein.

Minutes as amended were approved: Ayes: Morris, Jim, Art and Dino Rosanna; Opposed none.

Modification to Agenda

Action Item No. 2 add November meetings to the discussion

Information from Community Members:

Gary Weber – The El Cajon Business Association's Lighting Landscape Maintenance District is introducing new "Acorn" streetlights from Euclid Ave. to 35th Street. There will be 4 lights installed north of El Cajon and 4 south. Gary asked the Group for its thoughts on the design of the lightpoles (concrete, steel, aluminum and color). The lighting project is at the conceptual stage. The lights will touch four separate neighborhoods.

Art: Are the single globe acorns the best way to provide lighting (as opposed to standard cobra lights)?

Jim Schneider Executive Dir., Adams Avenue Business Association reminded the Group of Street Fair on the 26th and 27th The Farmer's Market is delayed pending a permit from Caltrans, which is being held up.

Reports from Representatives of Elective Officials:

Dion Akers, Council District 3 – Todd Gloria, distributed new edition of District 3 Dialogue. A heavy city Council agenda the next few weeks--August was dark.

Art: concerning parking enforcement: Officer Bayliss is difficult to reach, asked if Dion could contact him regarding street issues.

City Planning and Community Investment: Victoria White is being reassigned and a new planner is being assigned to Mid-City.

Non-Agenda Information Items from Guests

Mark Giandona, Capital Projects, presented plans for two projects: 1) portion of the Urban Trails Project, which includes the 40th Street Promenade; 2) Cherokee/Madison/Ward St. traffic calming. Mr. Giandona left draft plans with Jim and asked for the Group's input. A third project—the SR 15 bike route to Mission Valley—is planned for the future and will be presented in coming months.

Agenda Information Items:

1) Lynn Mullholland, Chairwoman of the Mission Valley Community Council, presented a survey of residents which included choices related to land use in the Valley such as the disposition of the Qualcomm Stadium site. The Group was invited to join the Mission Valley CC to meet with members of the City Council on a regular basis to express the community's preferences with regard to development decisions.

2) General discussion regarding Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park, leash-free area, and public behavior and the community garden; assignment of plots needs to be more transparent and open to the community.

Suzanne: recalls seeing a plan that designates the community garden as part of the City's Park Master Plan.

Dion: Actually, the community garden is not eligible for grant funding because it is not presently part of the "Park Master Plan". Community Development staff is looking into at a designation as either temporary or permanent.

3) Jim had done some research, contacting staff of SDUSD and found that Adams Elementary was not on the potential closure list. A new process will be instituted for deciding which sites to close in the future.

4) Jim attended the Sept. CPC meeting and brought back handouts: Center City Development Corp. and San Diego River Parks Master Plan.

5) Kevin said there is desperate need for volunteers for Coastal Clean Up Day in Normal Heights on Sat., September 19. San Diego Canyon Lands will be featured in an introduction to an episode of Ken Burns "National Park" series. For more on canyon events email kevin@sdcanyonlands.org.

6) Jim commented on the COW webpage—very simple.

Action Items:

1) No projects

2) Nancy is quite involved in National Night Out the first Tuesday night in August. Jim had checked with the Community Planning Committee for any prerequisites

to changing meeting dates—only a notice is required. Art suggested moving all meetings to the second Tuesday; would that require amending the by-law? Morris advised that August has been typically dark and moved to make August permanently dark; seconded by Susan. Jim called for the vote. Votes in favor: 8, opposed: Art, Rosanna abstaining. Jim will notify our new community planning representative.

- 3) Jim Schneider asked the Group for a letter of support for the Farmers' Market, to help gain approval from Caltrans. Art asked is there were any financial incentives. Jim responded there weren't.

Nancy moved to provide letter of support for a Farmer's Market in Normal Heights, without being specific about location or time; Holly seconded, all in favor, none abstained

- 4) Nancy volunteered to coordinate the Planning Group table at the Street Fair. Several members indicated availability to take time slots; Rosanna will prepare an information handout.
- 5) Holly moved to recognize Suzanne Ledeboer as an additional representative to historic preservation seminar at the Balboa Park Club; Rosanna seconded, 9 in favor, Art opposed.

Old Business

Art reiterated his preference for code enforcement priorities from his failed motion of May, 2009. Rosanna asked if Jim would send out the priority list again for review and restatement of our preferences. Art moved to adopt the City Heights prioritization with modifications:

- Garages used for storage from "No Code Compliance Action" category to low priority; and,
- Moving enforcement of on-street parking rules from low to Priority III.

Dino seconded, in favor: Art, Rosanna and Dino.

Jim invited the Group to send him their code enforcement priority preferences

Committee Reports

Housing/Historical: Nancy announced the Land Use and Housing meeting celebration of "History Day" and encouraged everyone to attend a Sept. 23rd discussion of the new guidelines for historic designation, which will seriously hobble the program.

Next meeting: October 6 in the Community Center

Adjourned at 7:50